

CLEVELAND'S RECEPTION.

BRILLIANT SOCIAL EVENT AT ALBANY.

The President-elect Receives His Social Friends to the Number of Nearly Three Hundred Grand Display of Fashionable Toilettes—How Gov. Cleveland Receives—The Banquet.

ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 24.—The reception tendered by Gov. Cleveland to his social friends to-night was a brilliant affair. Three hundred invitations were sent and fully nine-tenths of those invited attended. The reception was given exclusively to those who had extended courtesies to the President-elect during his two years' sojourn here, and his Buffalo friends who had honored him. As it was purely in return for social honors which the governor has received, no invitations were extended to persons outside of this city, Buffalo and Troy. The principal State officials were present with their ladies. The time designated for the reception was between the hours of nine and twelve, but the guests were late in arriving. By 10 o'clock, however, quite a number had arrived at the executive mansion and before 10:30 the parlors were filled with guests. The ladies appeared in the richest evening costumes ever seen in this city. Occupying the exact position in the parlor where he stood when informed of his nomination, the President-elect, assisted by his two sisters, Miss E. Cleveland and Mrs. Hoyt, received the guests. The presentation of each guest was made by Gen. Earnsworth of the governor's staff and Col. Lamont, the governor's private secretary. For each guest the governor had a pleasant word and a shake of the hand. While the guests were being presented a band stationed in the library dispensed music, which the younger guests took advantage of by indulging in dancing. When the presentation ceremonies were concluded Gov. Cleveland gave his arm to Mrs. Cary of Buffalo and led the way to the dining room, followed by Mr. Erasmus Corning escorting Mrs. Daniel Manning and other guests, whose they passed on to the dining room. The dancing was again indulged in by many while others gathered in little groups and engaged in social conversation. The President-elect was almost constantly the centre of a group of ladies who were not only his social friends but also his political friends. It was long after midnight before the last guests took their departure from what was considered the social event of the season.

THE TWO BIG CANAL PROJECTS.

Comparison of the Panama and Nicaragua Routes.

(Washington Despatch to the Boston Herald.)

The Nicaragua canal project continues to attract attention to a very great extent. Mr. Edmunds yesterday made a strong appeal for the ratification of that treaty. Having been always in favor of its negotiation, he naturally desires to see it succeed now. Indeed, it is probably largely due to the influence of Mr. Edmunds that the present treaty has been carried thus far. He is a strong opponent of the idea of allowing the French to establish themselves on this continent, and he believes there are large commercial and agricultural possibilities in Nicaragua, while comparatively few are in Panama. The theory of the administration is that the construction of the Nicaragua canal by this government will cause an indefinite suspension of the Panama canal, and perhaps its abandonment. There are people who do not think, however, and who believe that after all it would be better for the United States to go on for a few years and build a Panama canal with 20 locks, 280 miles long, in Nicaragua, with no barriers at either end. It would be a slow and expensive process, to be sure, but a sailing vessel across the continent by means of a canal with so many locks. The publication of the report of Maj. M. F. Farland, of the corps of engineers, United States army, on the Nicaragua canal, prepared in 1874 and suppressed until now, will affect the opinions of Senators in regard to the scheme. He sets forth fully, but without exaggeration, the character of the difficulties to be surmounted in making this canal, and declares that the work will cost not less than \$140,000,000. Everybody knows that Gen. Russell's talk of building any sort of a canal for \$200,000,000 is nonsense. Probably the actual cost would rise more rapidly to \$200,000,000. The Panama canal is not likely to cost less than \$200,000,000, but that will not prevent it from being dug. It is felt here that it is inadvisable to our government that there should be any discussion about the feasibility of the Panama canal at this late day, and the plan of sending out a mixed commission of army and navy officers of high rank to report on the two routes is again broached. It is felt that some more definite and trustworthy information in regard to the cost of both routes should be obtained before anything is done.

THE NEW ORLEANS EXPOSITION.

The Work of Improvement Being Rapidly Pushed—Small Number of Visitors.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 24.—At the Exposition grounds the work of improvement is being pushed as rapidly as an army of workmen can prosecute their labors. Within the building the exhibitors are crowding space with great rapidity. Everything has settled down in a systematic groove and as a natural result not a moment is lost. While the attendance is good, very little business has been done in the way of sales. The exhibitors, however, are cheerful, claiming that the investing community have yet to come. The near approach of the Christmas holiday has also had its effect financially. To-morrow will be a good day as information has been received that the first influx of our best excursionists will arrive. The great numbers of visitors from Nebraska, Minnesota and Indiana, and still number the 200,000 in all. Among the number a large percentage are school teachers.

The Bennett-Mackey Cables Opened.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—The Bennett-Mackey cables were opened to the public at a banquet at the offices of the Commercial Cable Company, corner of Wall and Nassau streets. The place was brilliantly lighted and the operators and clerks were kept actively engaged in sending cablegrams.

Hon. Robert C. Winthrop Unable to Deliver the Address at the Washington Monument Dedication.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Hon. Horatio C. King has received a letter from the son of Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, stating that that gentleman is better, but that there is no probability of his being able to come to Washington to deliver the address which he has prepared for the ceremonies at the dedication of the Washington monument. It has been suggested that the son of Mr. Winthrop be invited to read the address, but the matter has not yet been considered by the monument association.

THE BENNINGTON MONUMENT.

The Plan Adopted—Statement by the Committee.

The Bennington battle monument committee—Messrs. E. J. Phelps, A. H. Rice, B. F. Prescott and J. G. McCullough—have published a statement in regard to the plan they have adopted in which they say:

The committee have been favored with various designs from very competent hands, all meritorious, and some of great merit. Without further reference to others which the proper limits of this report would not allow us to describe, we have unanimously and without any final hesitation concurred in recommending to the directors the design of Prof. John F. Wehr, a model and drawings and ground plan of which are herewith submitted. They explain themselves, as far as a mere artist and sculptor can, and anticipate his successful realization in the artistic conception and execution. The structure is designed to stand about twenty feet square on the ground, and about fifty feet in clear height, and to be on a mound of about sixty feet. The mass of the base is to be composed of rough blocks of New England granite. From these rises a shaft of unbroken granite, irregular in form, suggestive of the character of the age and of the country, converging toward the top. This is surmounted by a figure in bronze of striking attitude, fifteen feet high, which may be either a portrait statue of Gen. Stark or a representative ideal figure typifying the Revolutionary leader. On each side of the base, the four corners, the shaft are designed to stand four bronze statues eight feet high, representative of those who took part in the fight and its incidents. These need not be portraits of individuals, but types of the age and the event, the latter to be the artisan turning from their avocations to take up arms to resist invasion; the woman of the time, not less memorable than the man, sheltering her child from the coming storm; the minister of religion, whose words animated his flock and invoked upon them the divine benediction. These sculptures if completely designed and executed, will express most forcibly the event which is to be memorialized, and what is much more, the heroic spirit which has been the glory of the outcome. The battle of Bennington was not fought on our side by regular troops, nor in the course of systematic war. It was the spontaneous uprising of the yeomanry of the time to repel invasion, and to strike for the preservation of our liberty. That is the distinctive story and the national impulse which the sculpture should perpetuate, in such manner that the wayfarer man and the school-boy may read it always, without mistaking. The model that we plan to erect, and the small figures that will indicate the place and general character of the sculpture, can only promise and suggest this success; they can not realize it. That must be left, as every work of art must be, to the genius and skill of the sculptor. True, it may fail of its purpose, as sculpture has failed before; but in the right hands we do not anticipate failure. More especially as the design of each figure will remain to be considered and accepted before it is actually executed. And in the execution of the monument, we expect to employ the best artists, and to have the best workmen. On the four sides of the base are spaces for suitable inscriptions. And on the pediments of the statues may be introduced, if desired, as shown on the model, bas-reliefs in bronze, representing scenes connected with the battle, and in bronze wreaths emblematic of victory.

THE FORTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS.

Both Houses Adjourn Until Jan. 2.—No Business of Importance Transacted.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—The Senate convened as usual promptly at noon and within ten minutes had disposed of such little morning business as offered, consisting of petitions, etc. The Chair then laid before the Senate the calendar of bills unobjected to, but on motion of Senator Morrill without further business the Senate at 12:30 went into executive session, and the day was spent in reading the Chair announced his signature to the concurrent resolution providing for a holiday recess from Dec. 31 to Jan. 5. On motion of Senator Allison the Senate at 12:38 adjourned until Jan. 5, 1885.

The House Convenes in the Senate Resolution of Adjournment.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—There were about 50 members present when Speaker Carlisle called the House to order this morning. Mr. Randall of Pennsylvania called up the adjournment resolution and moved a concurrence in the Senate amendment which provides that the recess shall begin to-day and last until January 5, 1885. The motion was agreed to. The House then at 12:25 on motion of Mr. Randall adjourned until Jan. 5, 1885.

Washington Notes.

The amended naval appropriation bill was received by the House from the Senate to-day, but no action was taken in regard to it. The current appropriations for the navy department expire on the 31st inst.

The board of trustees of the Columbia university of Washington, at a special meeting upon the important recommendation of the faculty of its medical department, has decided to admit women to the study of medicine in that institution with all the privileges of instruction now accorded male students.

Gen. Sherman Speaks Upon the Military Necessities of the United States.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Gen. W. T. Sherman addressed the military society instituted at Governor's island this afternoon on "The Military Necessities of the United States." Gen. Hancock, Capt. Bedford of the British army, and other distinguished soldiers were present. Gen. Sherman argued as usual in favor of a more efficient service to be gotten into shape in times of peace. He also said that the military system should be improved and advocated the present bill.

Notwithstanding all that has been said about the superfluous women of New England, it would seem that the supply of husbands is greatly in excess of the demand. A New Haven advertisement for a husband brought two hundred responses.—Boston Transcript.

GEN. R. E. LEE'S FAMILY

BRIEF SKETCHES OF THE CONFEDERATE COMMANDER'S CHILDREN

Mrs. Lee and Her Daughters During the War—Privations of the Dark Days—Arlington—A Youthful Confederate's Last Message.

(New York Herald.)

At the recent opening of the Metropolitan museum of art I saw among the many notable people there Miss Mary Lee, the second daughter of Gen. Robert E. Lee. She is a plain-looking lady of 35, and, like her father, is altogether unpretentious. She wore a heavy cashmere wrap, and was in company with a lady similarly attired. Miss Mary Lee resembles her mother in appearance more than her father. It is remarkable that she is the only one of Gen. Lee's children who at all resembles him. His oldest son, Gen. G. W. Custis Lee, now the president of Washington and Lee university, at Lexington, Va.

There are five of the Lee children—three sons and two daughters. They were all born at Arlington, the old Custis homestead near Washington, where Mrs. Lee continued to reside after her marriage. The oldest daughter, Mildred, has traveled a great deal since the war, spending much of her time in Europe, but here she makes her home with her brother Custis at Lexington. Mrs. Mary, the next sister, also lives with him. Agnes, the youngest sister, died during the war at a health resort in North Carolina. None of the daughters married. Custis Lee is also single, but Mary and Robert E., Jr., are both married and are both Virginia farmers. One of them only has children, and the probabilities are that it is through him alone that the Lee family and the Custis family are to be perpetuated.

Mrs. Robert E. Lee was the only child of George Washington Park Curtis, who was the only son and heir of Martha Washington. It was from George Washington and Martha Washington that Custis obtained Arlington, which, at the opening of the war, was one of the finest pieces of country property of the south. It was the ideal southern homestead. The Union forces took possession of it at the opening of the hostilities in 1861, and during the war it was converted into a national cemetery. According to the provision of the will of George Washington, Park Curtis, the entire property was to go to the eldest son of Mrs. Lee. That eldest son was the present Gen. G. W. Lee, and he obtained \$125,000 from the government in payment for Arlington last winter, thus having been a long contest about it. That money represents the bulk of the property now in possession of the Lee family, and is but a trifling remnant of the magnificent estates they owned in Virginia before the war, not to speak of the hundreds of slaves that belonged to these estates. But the family has fared better than many others of the south that were equally wealthy before the war.

Gen. Curtis Lee, though the legal possessor of the \$125,000, he received for Arlington, has a big heart, and makes the most liberal provision for his two maiden sisters. Through the kindness of the late Mrs. Lee, we have seen a little account book in which there was a record of expenditures made on account of the little party the Mrs. Lee and her daughters made with it. It was seldom they had meat or coffee, and the most exorbitant price had to be paid for chicken or even green corn. Through the kindness of the late Mrs. Lee, we have seen a little account book in which there was a record of expenditures made on account of the little party the Mrs. Lee and her daughters made with it. It was seldom they had meat or coffee, and the most exorbitant price had to be paid for chicken or even green corn. 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